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# Nation

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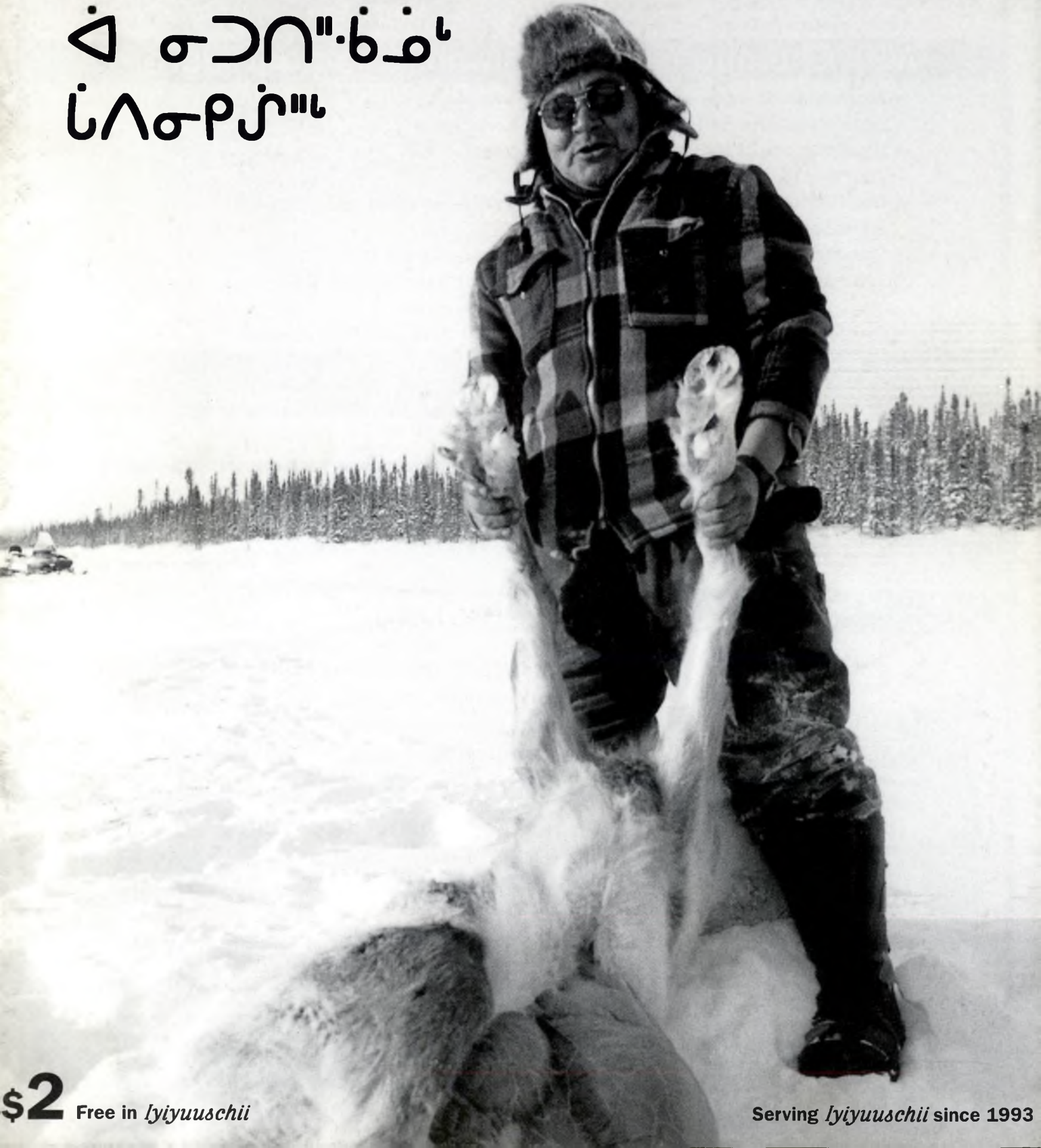

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EDITORIAL

# BREAKING THE RULE

How does one start an editorial? It is a question that I deal with every issue of The Nation. There is always something to say, but what is important to say? This week I am going to break one of our rules for this editorial. The rule is simple; we always try to give our readers the final say. This is why we don't reply to letters unless they direct a question, have misinformation in the letter or have misunderstood something to a great degree. This policy, like others, may not be well-known, but it exists.

The reason why I'm breaking it is to clear up something. We have been accused of "negativity" in our reporting and I would like to share some of my feelings with you on that.

First off this isn't an editorial to blast people. I commend all people who have written letters to The Nation. You show the sense of community and action (or reaction) I like to see. People who are willing to do something about what you see and feel.

I think that you are like me in that regard. When I see something that is beneficial and good for the community I will speak about it and I will give it my support wholeheartedly. When I see something that I feel is hurtful and bad for the community I will speak against it and work to end it. This is how we, as human beings, work to continue to make our communities grow and prosper.

When we had nothing but rumour, things would get distorted and our reactions to the situation could actually hurt the prosperity and growth of the Cree community.

The Nation and radio stations changed some of that. We provided accurate reports of what people were doing. We did not try to sugar-coat it because we, at The Nation, believe that our readers are mature individuals capable of being treated like adults who understand the world.

It is natural, though, to remember the so-called "bad" or "negative" stories. It is the reason why people will slow down to see an accident, are drawn to a fire, etc. Human nature is to learn from mistakes or the consequences of "negative" actions.

Surprisingly, some people don't seem to learn from the good or at least remember it very well. We have had a surprising number of stories that deal with people who could be termed role-models.

On the other hand, we have dealt with a number of issues such as family violence, AIDS and sexual orientation that we knew would be difficult for people to read about.

It is a tightrope to balance The Nation at times to put in everything. I remember one issue where I blasted a plan in an editorial only to write a story where the chief in question looked pretty good. The chief also didn't really want to talk to me, but all who enter public office should remember one thing; you are no longer a private individual. You accepted a public life and shouldn't be surprised to see yourself in the limelight, whether in a "good" or "bad" light.

Writing a balanced story can be hard in the best of times, but we face an especially difficult situation when one side in a news story doesn't return phone calls or answer requests for information, as sometimes happens. In that case, we take steps that any responsible newspaper would take: we check and double-check all facts before printing them, we separate rumour from provable information, we give everyone ample opportunity to call us back and we contact other people who do provide us with missing information.

But through this all, one fact remains. By reporting the "negative" or "positive" actions of other people, it doesn't mean we are necessarily endorse those actions. Nor do we necessarily condemn them. We are merely communicating the information to you, our readers. And we hope to do this clearly, concisely, without hearsay or rumour, and with enough space for all sides of the story.

If we were not a fully independent business this might not have been possible. Then you might have gotten a newsmagazine filled with so-called "positive" stories with little substance. Just how "positive" is it really if we hide information from each other, even when that information hurts? Do we really want a Cree version of Pravda, the Communist propaganda organ? Cree life has both negative and positive aspects, and this magazine strives to reflect them. I welcome your input on this issue.

by William Nicholls

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***Lawrence Scipio***
***Photo: Neil Diamond***
***Design: Sylvia Tennisco***

# rez notes

**by Ndiamon**

We were going to do it the hard way. We were going to massacre a herd of caribou the way our forefathers used to do it, the traditional way, or as traditional as you can get in 20th century Creeland.

There we were, four city slickers on the kangaroo express through Val d'Or, Nemaska, Waskaganish, Eastmain, Wemindji and finally our final destination before the slaughter, "Chasibi."

Val d'Or was uneventful save for the fine cognac Vincent bought for our early morning coffees in the "casse croute." Then, after passing through security, it was on to Nemaska. Aircreebec was zippin' through the cold northern air right on schedule. I hop off the plane to pick up my goose down blanket my mom sewed for me when I was still a young lad. I also had a chance to pick up my Sports Illustrated desk calendar Roger got me for Christmas. Who knows, I thought; we might need a calendar in the bush. A quick goodbye and good luck and we were off again.

At last we landed in Chasibi. A half-hour wait and representatives from the Mandow Agency finally drove up and practically laid out the red carpet for us. A frozen beaver lay wrapped in the back of their mini-van. A gift? I thought. No such luck.

We drive into town for bullets, shells and snare wire and borrowed arms. A 30-30, a .410, a .22 and hamburgers and fries at the Mitchuap Restaurant. Matthew Coon Come and his crew are just finishing lunch when we walk in. "I hear you guys are going caribou hunting," they ask. The sun is setting when we head off for Radisson. We pack up the sleds and the machines are revved up just down the road from the LG-2 spillway. Finally at around eight o'clock we are off and it is pitch black. Two American hunters have joined the hunt and have obviously never driven skidoos before. There are a few rest stops and once or twice the Americans miss the trail. More than half way to the camp Doug the American stops the skidoo on the trail to examine two frozen caribou killed by one of the Nine O'Clock brothers. We will be hunting on their trapline. Just before midnight we drive into camp and stumble into one of the cabins. Lawrence and Gary quickly start a fire and the city slickers huddle around the cold stove.

We wake up latish to a beautiful northern morning and I walk to the kitchen for freshly brewed instant coffee courtesy of Doug and Lou, the Americans. The others straggle in one by one into the warm kitchen. After a quick breakfast we head north with Lorenzo leading the way. Less than 15 minutes later he sees fresh tracks and we're on their trail. Lawrence, of course, spots them first. We stop, lock and load, ride along the snowy shore towards three caribou. Two adults and a calf. They break into a run and stop. We keep going. Finally Lawrence stops and leaps off his snow machine. (Doug the American later reports Lawrence saying,"Kill them, kill them all!") I debate whether to shoot with the camera or the practically antique 30-30 Winchester I borrowed for just this occasion. Screw the photos! I think. I run ahead and take aim. I'm too impatient and I have to shoot through a stand of trees and miss. I curse myself as the young beast takes off running. I run a few feet through deep snow and trees for a better shot. My second shot hits but the tough young thing gets up. I take another shot and he finally goes down. While I was doing all that several shots from the Americans' high-powered rifles rang out. The three caribou lay dying on the lake. Lawrence and Gary expertly gut them and we return to camp triumphant and heads held high. Not bad for the first half hour.

The next day Will is bloodthirsty after eyeing our kill. The group heads toward the opposite direction but nothing is spotted except a lone caribou that quickly heads for the trees and escapes. Several ptarmigan are shot and head back with a stalled ski-doo. Gary pushes the sled and machine with me steering. Near the camp I take a sharp turn and I wreck the sled hitch. The teasing starts.

We head out again after a quick warm-up. We spot two herds not far from each other. Will takes a few long shots and they take off. We head for the other herd. A few more shots and two more caribou for dinner. Will has satisfied his blood thirst. Finally. Akuuda.


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Nation

ANONYMOUS

Chief's vehicle went off the road between Desmaraisville and Waswanipi.

# CHIEF COULD FACE TWO-WEEK JAIL TERM

Waswanipi Chief John Kitchen could be facing a 14-day prison term over a drinking-and-driving charge laid against him just before New Year's Day, according to a Crown prosecutor in Val d'Or.

Kitchen was charged after a long provincial police investigation into an alleged August 3 incident in which his vehicle, a red Ford Explorer, went off the road between Desmaraisville and Waswanipi late in the night. The vehicle missed hitting a traffic sign by mere centimetres as it skidded sideways into a ditch.

The criminal charge comes at an awkward time for the embattled chief. Before the holidays, he was asked by some community elders and the band council to consider resigning due to personal problems he is facing not related to the drinking-and-driving charge.

Kitchen agreed to step down and, according to sources, requested a generous severance package, which the council agreed to.

After the holidays, however, Kitchen changed his mind. His position as chief and his personal difficulties were discussed at length at a community general assembly on January 13.

The community agreed to hold a referendum the following day on whether he should stay on until his term is up this summer. The vote was 177-to-121 in favour of Kitchen staying on (with five ballots spoiled).

"After the holidays, people said, Don't resign. There are still things that need to be done," Kitchen told The Nation. "Those were personal things that they were looking at. You can live the way you want to live."

Kitchen wanted to thank his supporters and forgives those who opposed him. "I apologized to people for some of the things I did and the way I live," he said. "I guess it's a lesson that we should learn from, all of us."

As for the drinking-and-driving charge, Kitchen claimed no charges had been laid against him in the case. He struck a defiant note when asked for a comment. "There are other people who drink and drive. Nothing is said about them. So why just me? These are personal things they do to me."

But Val d'Or prosecutor Marie-Claude Bélanger said a criminal charge was indeed laid against Kitchen on December 29. The chief's first court appearance will be in Senneterre on March 15, according to the Amos court clerk.

It's not the first time Kitchen has been charged with driving under the influence of alcohol. In September 1997, he was sentenced to a $300 fine over an earlier drinking-and-driving incident. Because the latest charge is Kitchen's second for drunk-driving, the prosecutor has the option of filing a "notice of a repeat offense," in which case perpetrators face a minimum 14-day jail sentence, according to Bélanger.

Whether the prosecutor files such a notice depends on a number of factors, like how long it's been since the first offense, Bélanger said.

by Alex Roslin

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# WASKAGANISH COP UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR ALLEGED ASSAULT

A Waskaganish police officer is under investigation for allegedly assaulting a local resident.

Christopher Stephen claims an off-duty local officer, Brian Hester, punched him in the face and kicked him in the leg outside the band office on January 14 or 15.

Stephen says he had his injuries checked out at the health clinic, and filed an official complaint with Chief Constable Jim Hester, in the presence of Ernest Blueboy, the band's public-security director.

Blueboy told The Nation a Sûreté du Québec officer from the Matagami detachment will come to the community this week to investigate the complaint. No charges have been laid yet.

Hester said through another local officer he didn't want to make a comment to The Nation about the alleged incident.

Brian Hester.

But Stephen said the alleged assault left him with a sore jaw all day. "I feel the Waskaganish police force members should control their anger. I feel the cops in Waskaganish have to be disciplined by the police force or the band. He didn't have the right to hit me," he said.

Stephen promised to sue if Hester is convicted.

Stephen said the alleged incident took place at 2:30 p.m. outside the band office. Stephen and Hester had been arguing about police practices inside the office, according to Stephen (who is a contributor to The Nation). When Stephen went outside, he noticed Hester's snowmobile running, so he says he turned it off.

Apparently, that angered Hester who allegedly confronted Stephen outside. The confrontation led to blows, claimed Stephen.

Chief Constable Hester refused to comment on the incident. "There's an

continued on page 9

## Meeting requested to discuss tragic death

**Letter to *The Nation*:**

This letter is in regards to our own community of Waskaganish. Recently we have lost a young man due to drinking (see Briefs, page 7). And we know how the weather is like up here, and this young man froze to death. And what a sad way to leave your family and friends.

I was really scared when I heard about it. I thought to myself that it could have been me or my family or any of my real close friends.

This is scary when somebody dies in the community like that. I feel this could have been prevented within the community. I remember when they used to have youth out walking around in the community.

And now, there are no youth out walking around the community. These youth used to talk to the youth who were out drinking in the community.

Not only drinking, but many other matters that our youth today are facing within our community of Waskaganish.

I feel our youth today, they don't listen to their parents and to their Elders. Our youth have been drinking a lot these days. Ever since we've lost this young man due to the fact of drinking, our youth have been drinking more heavily within our community.

It's like they don't care about what happened, and they don't want to talk about it. I feel our youth and elders and other people who are interested should sit down and talk about what we are facing in our community. I feel a meeting should be called as soon as possible to open the door for the youth to raise their concerns about these serious matters.

I know, it's not only our community of Waskaganish. It's all in the northern communities. I know this is a big problem within the communities. Elders should listen more to the youth today, not just criticize them. I feel our Elders should listen to our youth today. I think our Elders are only thinking about themselves. They should listen to our youth to know what they have to say about this matter. The Elders should think more about their youth than just letting them down.

Our chiefs should raise these matters within our communities, and be able to talk about these matters. I have never heard our chief holding a public meeting concerning these matters within our community of Waskaganish. It's like they are scared to talk about these issues.

We need to sit down and talk about these serious matters... Is that when they only have meetings - when something serious happens in the community???

We need to inform our youth today about the facts of life. We need to start building community of healing and get more involved in the community.

**Concerned youth in Waskaganish**
**Anonymous**


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# Grand chief slams Canada's policies

Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come launched a strong attack on Canada's treatment of the First Nations at a Carleton University conference on December 10.

The grand chief was invited to speak about the problem of Quebec separation. Instead, he used his half-hour speech to slam the federal government for refusing to change its policies toward First Nations.

"I don't see a signal that there is any change in the treatment of indigenous peoples in Canada," he said at the conference, which was organized by the Assembly of First Nations.

"I see the status quo and our communities are social time bombs."

Coon Come called on Ottawa to heed the concerns of the United Nations Committee on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights, which has just released a report on Canada's First Nations.

The UN committee said Canada's treatment of First Nations is so bad it violates the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which Canada has signed itself.

The UN noted that there is a "gross disparity" between Native and non-Native living conditions, and urged Canada to adopt the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP).

The UN frowned upon Canada's policy of extinguishing First Nations rights, and said Ottawa isn't doing enough to make sure provinces uphold Native rights.

Canada was also criticized for not following the UN committee's last recommendations in 1993. Back then, Canada had adopted policies "which exacerbated poverty and homelessness among vulnerable groups at a time of strong economic growth and increasing affluence," the UN committee reported.

Finally, the UN committee prodded Canada to do more on self-government and asked what rights First Nations would have if Quebec separates.

Grand Chief Coon Come praised the report. "For one thing, the UN committee took note of the extremely limited land and resource bases of aboriginal peoples in this country as a result of our ongoing dispossession. My own people, the James Bay Crees, were dispossessed in the early 1970s by flooding for a mega-project.

"Then, under duress, the brutal federal policy of extinguishment of aboriginal land rights and title was applied to us, upon the insistence of the Quebec government. The UN committee called for the restoration to aboriginal peoples of lands and resources that are adequate to ensure sustainable economies and societies," he said.

Coon Come had little good to say about Ottawa's idea of self-government. "I challenge any First Nation that says it has self-government. If you're administering a federal program, you're just an extension of the federal government - you're administering your own poverty.

The Cree leader lamented the "tragically poor conditions faced almost universally in hundreds of aboriginal communities across this country," where the "common theme is dispossession, exclusion, marginalization and discrimination."

**SOURCE: Windspeaker, Paul Barnsley**

# Tragedy claims young trapper's life

Tragedy struck in Waskaganish on January 11 when a young local trapper was found frozen to death just two days before he and his family were scheduled to go to their trapline.

William Whiskeychan, 25, was seen drinking in various places in the community the night before.

According to George Katapatuk, of the Cree Trappers' Association, Whiskeychan wandered off down a road wearing light clothes, then went into some deep snow.

It was very cold and Whiskeychan was found without a winter coat, boots or anything to keep his hands warm.

From his tracks, it looks like he was struggling in the snow to make it back to the road. He was found about 50 metres away from the road near the daycare centre.

Katapatuk, who has the job of getting information on deaths in the community and relaying it to the families, said the incident has been very difficult for everyone concerned.

"It's the first time I've dealt with a case like that. To me it was a shock. I was stunned."

# 100 miles of health

Congratulations to the walkers in Waskaganish who just celebrated the conclusion of the 100 Mile Challenge with a feast and awards banquet.

The challenge put forth was for teams of two or more to walk 100 miles or more over a 100-day period this past summer.

This contest was designed to encourage regular (and fun!) physical activity for all community members in an effort to improve overall health and prevent Type 2 Diabetes.

Participation was tremendous. Many teams registered and many individual people were inspired to walk on their own. In total, 14 teams successfully met the challenge and could boast that they were now members of the elite Waskaganish First Nation 100 Mile Club.

These lucky members received commemorative t-shirts designed by local talent Timmy Whiskeychan.

Awards were given for these and other outstanding performances: Fastest Team

continued on page 9

# Calling all Smokers...

## What Stage Are You At?

1• **I am not thinking** about quitting, certainly not in the next six months.
2• **I'm thinking** about quitting someday, but not right now.
3• **I want to quit** within the next four weeks, and I want to know more about how to do it.
4• **I have just quit** and am having withdrawal symptoms.
5• **I have quit** smoking and I want to know more about staying that way.

## Stage One

**I'M NOT READY TO QUIT SMOKING**

Right now, you aren't thinking about quitting **smoking**. That's understandable, and this information will not try to pressure you to quit. Instead, this will help you learn more about your smoking - why you smoke, and how you feel about it.

It's easy to feel guilty and angry, especially if you feel you always have to defend your right to smoke. We are not telling you that you have to quit - we just want you to think about it. Take a little time and maybe you'll learn some new things about yourself.

## The Five Components of Smoking

Smoking has a very powerful hold on many people, partly because people smoke for a combination of reasons:

▪**Physical Addiction:** Nicotine is the substance in cigarettes that is physically addicting. Nicotine is more addictive than alcohol, cocaine or heroin. With every puff on a cigarette, a "hit" of nicotine reaches your brain within seven seconds. This hit of nicotine makes you feel good - temporarily - and it makes you want more!

▪**Physical Habit:** Each puff of a cigarette helps to create a strong "hand-to-mouth" habit. For example, if you puff each cigarette 10 times, and smoke half a pack a day, you would be repeating this hand-to-mouth motion 100 times a day, or over 35,000 times a year. This behavior becomes a strong physical habit.

▪**Emotional Support:** Smokers think of cigarettes like **good friends** that help them through the bad times and boost their enjoyment of the good times. Smokers count on their cigarettes to support them, and they always come through - unlike many other things in people's lives. This support creates a real bond between the smoker and the cigarettes.

▪**Personal Identity:** Many people see **smoking** as a big part of who they are. Maybe your smoking is wrapped up in who you believe you are, and the values that you hold as a person. Some people consider this to be **spiritual**. Because smoking can be central to your very being, it can have a strong hold on your life.

▪**Social Habit:** If you always have a cigarette with your morning coffee, or when you're with friends, you have trained yourself to smoke in certain social situations. This training happens without you even realizing it, and it's very powerful.

## Why do You Smoke?

If you're like most people, you probably feel you've heard all about the health risks of smoking, but given the circumstances you made the choices that seemed right at the time. So, even though you know that smoking is bad for you, why do you continue to smoke? You probably have reasons that make sense to you. Here are some common reasons for smoking:

- I'm only smoking a few cigarettes a day - that's not dangerous.
- I'm too addicted to quit.
- Smoking helps me relax when I'm stressed.
- Smoking keeps me from gaining weight.
- If people didn't bug me about it so much, I probably wouldn't smoke.

## Thinking About Your Smoking

Take a few minutes to think about the main ways smoking helps you. You have valid, important reasons. However, that's only one half of the story. Now, take some time and think of the bad things about your smoking. Think about what harm, inconvenience, or discomfort smoking brings you.

## Looking Down The Road

When you began reading this, you were content to be a smoker, and you may still be. However, if you can now imagine quitting some time in the future, think about the following questions. Your answers may help you along the road to a smoke free future.

- Why do I smoke?
- What does smoking really mean to me?
- Why might I want to quit smoking?
- Do I want to smoke for the rest of my life?

## Tobacco Addiction and Tradition

Among many First Nations, tobacco is given to Elders to honor and thank them. It is used in ceremonies to show respect for the Creator. Daily consumption of cigarettes, as well as the marketing of tobacco, have very little to do with the sacred meaning of the tobacco plant.

**Now is a good time to think about all your own reasons for smoking and the ones for quitting.**

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Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

# REFERENDUM BACKS CHIEF...

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Peter Gull, a former chief who is now president of the band-owned Mishtuk Corporation, said the vote should send a message that there have to be changes in the way the band is run.

"That's what 40 per cent of the electors said. It should be a very clear message to the council that they should start making changes," he said.

Gull noted that 303 people voted in the referendum on whether Kitchen should stay as chief, whereas less than 200 were present at the general assembly. In other words, 100 people didn't hear all the issues being discussed, he said.

"I'm not really sure they (those who voted) really understood what the issue was."

Gull said he supported the band council's request that Kitchen consider resigning. For him, the issue wasn't Kitchen's family life, but the chief's frequent absences from the community, which Gull said have left Waswanipi leaderless.

"If he's away 80 per cent of the time from the community, how is he to perform his mandate to the community?" asked Gull in an interview.

"When he's not around, I'm not sure who does his tasks."

Granted, a chief has to attend a lot of outside meetings, but Gull said when he was chief he was still able to spend a reasonable amount of time in the community.

Gull said Kitchen is involved with too many outside organizations that distract him from his work as chief, such as the Fonds régionale de solidarité Nord-du-Québec.

Gull was not aware of Kitchen's latest drunk-driving charge when asked for his opinion about it. He said: "Personal issues are not important, unless it affects his work."

But another community member said the chief's personal problems are a public issue. "You're a public figure. You're the person we look at as a leader. How will the children look at it?"

# POLICE OFFICER UNDER INVESTIGATION...

continued from page 5

investigation going on right now," he said.

Ernest Blueboy, a former police officer himself for 12 years, wouldn't comment directly on the case, beyond saying: "Everybody has the right to make a complaint. If it's true what happened - a police officer using excessive force - maybe it was unnecessary. Even police officers are not exempt from the law."

Christopher Stephen.

At the same time, he pointed out that "everybody is innocent until proven guilty." He said Brian Hester may not be able to stay on as an officer if he is found guilty.

In general, Blueboy said violence is an important problem in Waskaganish and the other Cree communities. Only very rarely do survivors of violence actually make police complaints, which means the perpetrators usually get away with it, he said. That can be very frustrating.

"I think we have a big problem. People don't want to say anything after the incident. Maybe they blame themselves or feel sorry for themselves, or they're afraid," he said. "I like to see people make a complaint."

Blueboy said most of the time, the victim is a woman. He said he's seen a lot of people going to the health clinic beaten up or cut. "I saw a lot of people getting hurt in my 12 years. I see the frustration of the doctors. What angers me is I cannot do something about it," he said.

"They (the victims) are letting it go too often. It makes it hard for police to do something because there is no complaint."

*-BY ALEX ROSLIN*

continued from page 7

(first to reach 100 miles) - Leonard and Victoria Hester (34 days); Strongest Team (most miles walked) - Patrick and Beulah Blueboy (222.6 miles); Most Consistent Team (most total days walked) - Edith Gilpin and Margaret Whiskeychan (64 days).

The community will soon start to gear up for an even more successful 100 Mile Challenge in the summer of 1999.

Anyone interested in organizing similar contests in other communities or wishing to challenge Waskaganish next summer is invited to contact Ingrid Kovitch at (819) 895-8833.

The complete list of 100 Mile Club team members: Leonard and Victoria Hester, Patrick and Beulah Blueboy, Edith Gilpin and Margaret Whiskeychan, Flora Erless and Patricia Wesley, David Dannenbaum and Ingrid Kovitch, Jack Diamond and Doris Small-Diamond, Mary Whiskeychan-Small and Virginia Small, Annie Erless and Clara Erless, Lilian Blueboy and Eliza Moar, Bert and Ida Blackned, Rita Blackned and Jane Whiskeychan, Sharon Leslie and Agnes Diamond-Morgan, Eric Shecapio and Lorraine Diamond-Shecapio, Sophie Diamond and Eleanor Diamond.

## Washaw Sibi tournament results

Oscar Kistabish sends the results of the finals of the Washaw Sibi Minor Hockey and BB Tournament held Jan. 14-17 in Amos.

SEMI-FINALS

Lac Simon 1, Pikogan 2 (BB M)
Lac Simon 0, Chisasibi 2 (BB B)
Pikogan 0, Lac Simon (HB)
Mashteuiash 0, Nemaska 4 (BB J)
Chisasibi 5, Manawan 2 (H PW)
Mistissini 3, Pikogan 4 (H PW)

FINALS

Pikogan 1, Lac Simon 2 (BB N)
Mashteuiash 0, Lac Simon 3 (BB C)
Lac Simon 0, Kitscisagik 1 (BB M)
Nemaska 2, Mistissini 3 (BB J)
Chisasibi 4, Mistissini 3 (H M)
Lac Simon 8, Manawan 7 (H B)
Pikogan 6, Chisasibi 1 (H PW)
Kitscisakik 1, Pikogan 0 (BB F)
Washaw Sibi 1, Les Boys (KS) 3 (BB H)

# BAPTISM BY ICE

## CARIBOU HUNTING WITH MANDOW AGENCY

BY WILLIAM NICHOLLS
Photos by Neil Diamond

After hearing stories about the caribou hunt we felt we had to try it out first-hand and planned a totally Cree experience. We would fly in using Air Creebec, Chisasibi's Mandow Agency would supply the guides and camp, and finally if we were lucky enough to get any caribou, Kepa Transport would bring it out.

Roggan Lake, kitchen. No one's going hungry tonight.

### MONDAY, JANUARY 11TH, DAY 1

We packed our equipment and left for Chisasibi. When we arrived in Chisasibi to experience the Mandow Agency's winter caribou hunt the weather turned bitterly cold. It was a shock from the warm temperatures we left behind in Montreal. It was unseasonably cold even for the North as that same week saw Waskaganish, about 300 kilometres to the south, closing its schools due to the cold.

Mandow always warns its customers about the cold and gives advice on how to stay warm. I would advise all to heed it. We found out about the cold first-hand, but more about that later.

Setting out from Montreal, The Nation hunt team was composed of Neil Diamond, Alex Roslin, Montrealer Vincent Desrochers and myself. Neil and I would be using 30-30 carbines while Vincent went traditional and brought a bow. We were unsure whether or not it would be too cold for the bow but thought it would be a great experiment. Vincent was the only one of us who had never experienced the North. Alex would be our Sherpa. We promised him if he was really, really good we would let him try to kill a caribou with a knife. His enthusiasm was contagious.

In Chisasibi, we met with Sam Cox, general manager of Mandow, who informed us there was a change of plans. We wouldn't be going to Cape Jones (where Hudson's Bay meets James Bay) after all but Roggan Lake's Camp Chapnickshii instead. The Nine O'Clock family's hunting territory, usually a summer outfitter's camp, has expanded into winter activities with the caribou hunt and ice fishing. Our guides would be Lawrence Scipio, aka Lorenzo, a 39-year-old grandfather with over 10 years experience with caribou, moose and goose hunting as well as fishing. He would be assisted by Gary, aka the Cutthroat of Seal River (a nickname he lived up to during poker and cribbage games).

Gary, at home on the ice.

Since bullets aren't allowed on aircraft, Neil and myself went to the local store to pick up 30-30's, .22's, .410 shotgun shells and other necessities. We learned two Americans would be coming with us: Doug, who looked a little like Ned Flanders from the Simpsons, and Bill Clinton (not really... Lou hated looking like the U.S. Prez as he was a republican!)

Then we were off in a van eventually crossing over the mega-project of the century's La Grande-2 Dam. The La Grande complex makes caribou hunting a little more difficult for

Lorenzo shows some of his butchering tricks to Clinton look-a-like Lou and fellow Virginian Doug.

Vince gets his first taste of the Far North.

Chisasibi-ites. Caribou used to come right up to the village but the increased water flow makes the ice unstable and open water can be seen even in the coldest winter months cutting off the caribou's access. As a result we traveled for an hour by van to where the snowmobiles were waiting.

Unloading the van and loading up the snowmobiles took a little time and it was about 8 p.m. when we took off for the camp. This is when we truly learned about the cold. Vincent arrived at the camp in the early stages of hypothermia. I rubbed his legs and arms to get the circulation going, while Ned/Doug put a down jacket over him as the fire was started. The North is nothing to play around in for the faint-hearted or ill-prepared. Vincent had put on too many socks and the too-tight fit in his boots had cut off the circulation. Vincent had four toes looking a little frost bitten.

We all warmed up, took a look at the northern lights and fell into a deep sleep in the toasty warm cabin. It was midnight.

## DAY 2

Vincent's feeling like he wants to take it easy today so we stay and hunt by foot around the camp. It's a beautiful day, clear, sunny with the usual cold. The place where we are is amazing. To say it is beautiful is an understatement. Besides the camp itself the land is untouched and pure.

Lorenzo and Gary take the two Americans, Neil and Alex out at around noon. By three o' clock they are back with five caribou. The Americans bagged their limit of two per person and Neil got one himself. The butchering starts and filet minion tenderloins are cut for that night's supper. Lorenzo is amazing and he is asked how long it takes him to skin a caribou. He says five minutes. Lorenzo tells me that he feels good when hunters get what they want. "It's a good trip when everything goes well," he says. Everyone is happy and ecstatic. I look at Vincent and say "tomorrow." We are starting to feel the hunt, as it is contagious. He's tells me he feels like he is on an adventure. "We look like a full north expedition," he jokes. He wasn't far from the truth as it was -52 degrees with the windchill. "It was the first time in my life that I felt so cold," he said.

After eating we play chess, backgammon and cards, talking and getting to know one another. There is no electricity or other distractions. There is a pleasure in communicating and using our brains without the pap of television. Doug and Lou quickly bonded with our group providing stimulating discussions about Henry Hudson (along with various historical trivia about the Bay) and UFOs. Doug claimed he worked for the U.S. government in some hush-hush capacity and wanted to defect to the Crees (as long as we raised his two-caribou quota)... I'm with the "Cree-IA" myself. However, I didn't take Doug up on his offer.

At various times we wander out into the night to look at the northern lights and the stars. It is so clear out, it's unbelievable unless you experience it first-hand for yourself. There are no competing lights of a town or city, no smog or anything like that. In short you are privileged to have an unequalled look at creation and the universe that we live in clearly. The stars are truly countless to the naked eye but are so beautiful you wouldn't want to

continued on page 12

Look ma! No gloves!

count them even if you could.

There is a sighting. No second-hand reports for Neil or Alex this time. It's a real UFO. It is night and they see a light blinking just above the trees slowly moving without making a sound. It's a genuine mystery. What was it? A satellite in orbit? Too low. Swamp gas? Too cold. A TV-deprived imagination run wild or something from another galaxy? To this day we don't know. That's why they call them Unidentified.

That night I learned why Gary was known as the "Cutthroat of Seal River." Before I knew what was happening I had lost my rights to shoot my caribou to Gary in a cribbage game. The next game was double or nothing. Up for grabs: my smoking privileges for the rest of the trip. To tell the truth I would have gladly given them up to get my shooting rights back. I won and the Cutthroat looked at me and smiled, asking for another game. I settled back in my chair and said I'd think about it for a while. I never did play crib with the lad after that. It was poker after that and for money only! It was too close a call to do anything else.

The Ice Man Cometh.

## DAY 3

Lorenzo told Vincent and me to get ready; it was our turn to hunt. We set out the opposite way from yesterday's hunt going north-by-northeast. During part of the ride there was a caribou looking at us down the trail. I ran to get my gun and as I set up to shoot the caribou started walking back into the bush. I shot only to hear a click. The safety was on. I had no time to take another shot. We quickly jumped on the snowmobiles and went to where the caribou hit the bush. I was off the machine in a flash and tracking the caribou. Lorenzo went in from the other side. We were too late; the caribou was gone but an unexpected surprise awaited us... partridge. By the time we left the area we had six for that night's supper. I didn't regret losing the caribou because the land had provided for us.

We continued on after dropping off the partridges, Gary and Alex back at the camp. We came across two herds standing on the ice. One moved off so we went for the other one using an island to mask our approach. I felt calm knowing it was the choice of the caribou whether or not to give itself to me. I shot low the first shot and adjusted my aim. I could see the bullet hit, it was so clear. As the caribou fell, the others started moving and Lorenzo fired. I shot again at another; it instantly dropped. I stopped firing and realized I had killed my first caribou. I gave thanks to the caribou and the land for my luck.

The first one I had hit was a spine shot and the caribou was

Lorenzo surveys the situation.

still alive so I asked Vincent to finish it off with his bow. It was nearly instantly killed. I gained a lot of respect for the bow after seeing the results.

Then came the hard task of gutting the caribou. Vincent helped me. As we were working on the first one, Lorenzo finished two and came to help. Vincent was impressed with Lorenzo's expertise. "When you're on the lake and the weather is -60 with the wind and you see this guy bare to the elbows gutting a caribou, you ask yourself how can he do this? How is he built?" said Vincent. Vincent later told me that just to see Lorenzo and Gary working in the bush made his trip a success.

We play poker that night and I'm not winning. People joke with me about it and I just smile and tell them I used up my entire luck earlier in the day.

## Day 4

Vincent and me take it easy around the camp while the rest head out to set a net through the ice. It's peaceful and relaxing. I ask Vincent about what he feels about the trip. He says while he's not a fan of the weather he'd return. "I learned about the caribou and the problems the Crees have had with the dams. This trip let me understand it and the Cree community. When I come back I'll be more prepared because I know what it's like," he says.

I feel good knowing the Crees have a new friend and this is something that Mandow's a part of. Not only do businesses like this bring money and jobs to our communities but they also educate people in what the North is all about.

## DAY 5

We head back and miss the plane. Ernie Webb's parents put us all up until the next flight. His parents, Eliza and Tom, are notorious for picking up strays and taking care of them. We certainly qualified. A big thanks go out to them, Lorenzo and "the Cut-throat of Seal River," and also to Rhonda Sherwood (who helped out beyond the call of duty), Mandow, Air Creebec, Kepa Transport and Sonny Orr (for the memories) for all they did to make this trip the success that it was. As a hunt put on by outfitters it was an experience I'll never forget.

One memory I'll always carry with me was when we were leaving the camp I saw the caribou for one last time. Two of them were standing off to the side of the snowmobile trail and as we came closer they started running. They angled themselves so they joined up on the trail, first running ahead of us and then beside us before heading out. It felt like they and the land were saying goodbye and it was a harmonious finish to the hunt. Meegwitch.

## COSTS

Mandow Agency: American Plan $789 (includes skidoo, guide, food and camp), European Plan $450 (includes camp and guide only). Both plans are for five days and four nights. Phone 1-800-771-CREE

Tags (for two caribou): $50 Quebec resident, $270 non-resident (tags can be bought at Mandow)

Air Creebec: Phone 1-800-567-6567. Rates vary depending on conditions.

Kepa Transport: Phone 1-800-567-6420. Rates depend on distance and weight.

Conseil Cri de la santé et des services sociaux de la Baie James
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Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

The ***Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay*** is a Cree controlled organization responsible for the organization and delivery of all health and social services for the nine Cree communities of James Bay, Québec. We are looking for candidates to fill the position of:

## Social Services Human Resources Development Professional

### 2 year contract subject to renewal

**In this position**, you will participate in the planning and coordination of activities related to the development of the organization's human resources: work organization, staffing, orientation, training, performance evaluation, supervision and motivation of the social services' staff.

**Projects in which** you will be especially involved are the BSW program, supporting the delivery of annual training and developing orientation and basic training programs for newly hired staff.

**The six employment** areas with which you will work are: Youth Protection, CLSC (general community services), NNADAP, Readaptation Group Homes, Readaptation Reception Centre and Social Management.

**In addition to** possessing a university degree in Social Work and having several years relevant experience in Native organizations and social work, you will have an in-depth knowledge of of First Nations paradigms of social work and issues. Being of First Nations ancestry is an asset.

**Your benefits will** include an annual salary between $31,150 and $53,186, a northern allowance of $6,075 or $9,717 (with dependants), three or four paid outings (with or without dependants) and your lodging, storage and moving costs.

If you desire to contribute to the development of Cree Social Services please fax your Resumé by January 30th to:

***Annie Bobbish***,
**Head of Human Resources Management, Cree Board of Health & Social Services of James Bay,**
**Chisasibi J0M 1E0**
**Fax: (819)855-2098.**

**Inquiries may be made to *Peter Atkinson*,**
**(819)855-2844.**

Conseil Cri de la santé et des services sociaux de la Baie James
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**Projects in which** you will be especially involved are supporting the delivery of annual training and developing orientation and basic training programs for newly hired staff.

**The employment areas** with which you will work are primarily the nurses of the hospital and CLSC community clinics and community Health Representatives. There will also be involvement with the other categories of employees in the hospital and clinics.

**In addition to** possessing a university degree in nursing you will have several years of relevant experience in Native health organizations. Fluency in both official languages is required.

**Your benefits will** include an annual salary between $30,434 and $56,036, a northern allowance of $6,075 or $9,717 (with dependants), three or four paid outings (with or without dependants) and your lodging, storage and moving costs.

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**(819)855-2844.**

# The Twilight Zone

**by... (drum roll from "Rasputin" by BoneyM.)**
**It is a teaser from Thelma & Louise...**

We have been besieged since our unexpected exit by adoring fans who are desperate for our expert guidance. We will not apologize for our extended visit to the dark side of the force; it is a much-needed repose. Thus, we have reluctantly agreed to bestow a X-mas gift to our many, many worshipping fans. It seems that the withdrawal symptoms experienced by our devout followers have been extremely painful and they are in dire need for a fix from Thelma & Louise (down boys, and girls...)

Thoughts to contemplate: Imagine the world ends in year 2000 (we can make it happen): Would you permit yourself to live life to its fullest by considering the following?

**Aquarius (Jan 19-Feb 18)**
One last kiss before you fade away from the mess you call a life. An anal retentive such as yourself deserves to live one pure moment before they die. Purity will decay if destiny is left unanswered. Rapture can be yours.

**Pisces (Feb 19-March 20)**
Leave gigantic and destructive footprints on many hearts this year. What have you got to lose? But only the forged existence created by everyone minus yourself. Develop boundless hallucinations of your own worth.

**Aries (March 21-April 19)**
Tormented in prison and at the mercy of nightmares is how one can describe the life you have been leading up to this point. Psychotic episodes are misunderstood to be ailments; in your case they are blessings.

**Taurus (April 20-May 19)**
Come out of the cellar, the place you crawl into when nightmares haunt your skull. Mourning that which you cannot possess is but an illusion. Burst forth from the absurdity of your reclusive shell. Life is awaiting.

**Gemini (May 20-June 21)**
You will not find satisfaction in the usual debauchery of the soul. Perverse pleasures can be found in the most simplistic forms of solitude. If you listen, you will hear that which has eluded you, and dominion will be yours.

**Cancer (June 22-July 22)**
Driven by a strange desire, you want what you need. Helpless as it steals your soul, you need to loose all control. You can feel it coursing through your veins. Laugh into the mocking face of insanity. Don't hold back.

**Leo (July 23-Aug 23)**
Come face to face with the inevitable. Fear is misplaced; we fear life, not death. Live with freedom from horror. Allow yourself to feel the reverence which the certainty of an end brings. Live to live.

**Virgo (Aug 24-Sept 22)**
We fear what we see in the distance. You have enslaved yourself to reason and decency. Betray your past. Sleep with salvation. Confusion by virtuous actions is needless in this final year. Embrace the arousal.

**Libra (Sept 23-Oct 22)**
Nothing is forever; the sooner you see this, the sooner you can accept the end is near. Life without pain is akin to shame without guilt. Pick up the pride you have left at the door, cloak yourself with it and head into faith.

**Scorpio (Oct 23-Nov 21)**
The memories which you linger over have now taken on a deformed shape. They have lost meaning. False masks have distorted the happiness of misery. Time to let the winds lead you to the land of dreams.

**Sagittarius (Nov 22-Dec 22)**
The fury of madness is an enigma which must be celebrated. The reality is an asylum we have limited our spirits to. Sour the skies with open heart and open wings. Nothing stands in the way of the True path.

**Capricorn (Dec 23-Jan 19)**
You are lost in the ideal which you have found in the trash. Salvage what is left of your convictions. Desperation is no longer a requisite. Lose yourself in the wake of madness. Self-actualization is yours to taste.

Wishing everyone a wonderful Winter Solstice and a Merry Christmas. You now know what you need to do for the New Year.

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CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY
BOARD OF COMPENSATION
ADMINISTRATION REGIONALE CRIE
BUREAU D'INDEMNITE

C.R.A.
A.R.C.

# Board of Compensation Recognition Awards

For the Board of Compensation's 20th Anniversary celebrations in Chisasibi on August 4th and 5th, awards were given out to 5 or 8 people from each of the Cree communities. The reason for these awards was to honor people who normally might not be recognized publicly for their contributions to the community or for their achievements. The people nominated for an award were chosen at the local level and the Board of Compensation awarded a clock, a cap, and a T-shirt to each nominee.

## CHISASIBI

**DORIS SPENCER BOBBISH:**
Involved with youth groups for many years; starting Brownie groups, etc. and the first youth square dancing group.

**MABEL HERODIER:** Third term as School Commissioner, gave up a salaried position to devote all her time working as a commissioner; involved at the regional level as well fighting for the Cree School Board.

**JULIET ISERHOFF:** Spent more than 50 years being in charge of community feasts, she retired at 75 years of age from this work, but will still occasionally put on an apron to take charge: still active in the Anglican Church Women's group after more than 50 years and continues to be active in other community events; was a supply teacher for many years in Cree culture, Cree language, gym and other subjects in the French and English sectors even though she does not speak French.

**EDITH SAM:** First woman politician (councilor) in Chisasibi more than 20 years ago; served on many committees; in 1977, received a medal "On the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the accession of Her Majesty the Queen to the Throne..." as an expression of worthy and devoted service.

**GEORGE VISITOR:** Acted as an alcohol and drug counselor for many years; helped many with other social problems; saved several people from certain death, among them, Steven Lameboy who was caught in quicksand and Josie Sam Atkinson who suffered a stroke while sitting in his goose blind.

## EASTMAIN

**EDWARD GILPIN SR.:** Retired after over 40 years of service to the Anglican Mission.

**MINNIE GILPIN SR.:** Retired in 1998 after more than 20 years as a teacher and a Student Affairs Technician.

**FLORRIE MARK-STEWART:** Retired in 1998 after more than 20 years as the Cree language teacher in her community.

**GEORGE & HATTIE MAYAPPO:** Spent many years offering moral support and understanding to community members who had lost loved ones.

**ABRAHAM WEAPENICAPPO:** Spent more than 85 years as a trapper, hunter, and protector of the Cree way of life; spent the last 8 years as a free Cree consultant to Chief Kenneth Gilpin; loss of sight forced him to retire.

## MISTISSINI

**JIMMY & KATHLEEN GUNNER:** Have been strong promoters of Cree culture in their community; involved in canoe trips for children every year.

**MATTHEW ISERHOFF JR.:** Participates in sports activities in spite of his handicap and his strong involvement with the youth offers an excellent role model to other people.

**SMALLY PETAWABANO:** Former chief; continues to serve his community in many ways.

**LAURIE PETAWABANO:** Spent many years contributing to her community in various ways.

## NEMASKA

**LAWRENCE JIMIKEN:** Provided many years of service to his community, both the old and new communities, through good and hard times.

**LOUISA JIMIKEN:** Opened her home for many years to boarding students whose families were in the bush; shared her vast cultural knowledge and expertise with the community.

**BERTIE WAPACHEE:** Continuous dedication to youth in Nemaska and all communities.

**CHARLOTTE WAPACHEE:** Dedicated efforts to helping elders by cooking for them, cleaning their homes, and most of all, spending time with them.

**ALL CREE ELDERS:** Past and present who provided guidance and encouragement even when the community members were scattered and who selected the new community. "When they pass on, we will always remember them and carry their love with us."

## OUJE-BOUGOUMOU

**JUDY & RAYMOND CAPASSISSIT:** 1998 recipients of Community Citizens Award; after many struggles they turned their lives around and Judy now works for the Cree Health Board.

**ALBERT MIANSCUM:** Respected elder; was a former councilor, remains an active Cree Tappers Association Committee member.

**MARGARET PADDY-MAILLOUX:** Received a BA in Cree literacy; teaches Grade 1 and works as a local consultant and translator.

**JANIS NEEPOSH:** Won Kanatewat Award for highest outstanding student grades in 1998.

## WASKAGANISH

**TOMMY GILPIN:** Provided over 30 years of service to the community.

**SIDNEY GEORGEKISH:** Former chief and served as board member and council member; is a respected elder.

**ISAIAH SALT:** Former chief; provided over 30 years of service to Northern & Air Creebec.

**RONNIE SALT:** Provided over 30 years of service to Northern.

**HELEN WEISTCHE:** An elder attending band meetings.

**JOHNNY WHISKEYCHAN:** Recognized for his community church work.

## WASWANAPI

**NOAH EAGLE:** Respected elder who was recently deceased; instrumental in planning community activities; represented community in various functions.

**EDITH GULL:** Involved in many youth programs as a volunteer; is a social worker and very active in NNADAP; always allows time for people.

**PETER GULL:** Original signatory of the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement as chief; contributed to the establishment of Waswanapi; continues to work in economic sector of Waswanapi.

**ABEL S. KITCHEN:** Former chief; instrumental in development of Waswanapi, in economic development programs and start-ups of spin-offs; established both youth and elders councils.

## WEMINDJI

**1. JIMMY GEORGEKISH**

**2. JOHN MISTACHEESICK**

**3. JAMES SHASHAWESKUM:** Assisted youth with canoe expeditions.

**FRANCES MARK:** Founder of Minor Sports program; established Daycare Project; recognized for her work on education and Cree language.

**JOHN MATCHES:** Recognized for his many years in missionary work and providing support to members with social problems.

**GEORGE STEWART:** Involved for many years in cultural and traditional activities.

## WHAPMAGOOSTUI

**ROBBIE DICK:** Former chief for 12 years (youngest chief in Whapmagoostui history); served as a councilor at a very young age; founded Whapmagoostui Council of Elders and contributed to establishment of Regional Council of Elders; driving force behind movement for the revival, protection, promotion, and safe-guarding of Cree language and culture at the local and regional levels.

**DAVID MASTY SR.:** First high school graduate in Whapmagoostui; role model for youth in community; served in many capacities for more than 25 years; has been a member of many local and regional boards; presently serves as Executive Director of Whapmagoostui First Nation.

**MATTHEW MUKASH:** Served as chief since 1992; among the first in Whapmagoostui to have a University degree (BA with major in Political Sciences and a degree in Building Engineering Technology); served as police officer for 5 years; served as a Liason Officer for the Grand Council of the Crees during the Great Whale River campaign and has served on regional boards (BOC, CRA, GCCQ, Executive GCCQ); brings laughter, joy and happiness to people with his good-natured self and mean fiddling.

**CHARLIE NIQUANICAPPO:** Symbol of Cree culture for the people of Whapmagoostui; 80 years old and still has not driven or ridden a motor vehicle, motor boat, skidoo, preferring to walk instead; as recently as 4 years ago, he still went to his traplinee by toboggan and snowshoes; has been a great hunter; publicly honoured by the people of Whapmagoostui for reminding them who they truly are - the Eeyouch.

**LISA PETAGUMSKUM:** Serves as a role model for many youth at the local and regional levels; one of the most visible potential leaders among Whapmagoostui youth; excels in academics and is currently preparing to study environmental law in the U.S.; proves by example that all one needs is faith, determination, and the will to succeed; is open-minded, has a strong personality and an ability to speak her mind.

## REGIONAL LEVEL

**ROBBIE & SALLY MATTHEW:** Have shown dedication to all youth throughout Eeyou Astchee; willing to leave their trapline whenever they are needed in any Cree community; active in the Regional Council of Elders and establishment of a local Council of Elders; provide moral support and assistance to many local youth; continue to spread the teachings of Cree culture throughout Canada and internationally.

**DAVID NEEPOSH:** Dedicated to the teaching of the Cree culture and language; tolerance of and respect for all religions, races, ages, and cultures; continues to spread the teachings and share his knowledge of traditional ways even after the loss of his wife, Suzanne, a short time ago; continues to be an inspiration to all of us.

# A cry from the wilderness

I wonder sometimes if anyone has given serious thought to the potential good and the potential harm our actions or inactions have on persons touched by such an effect.

Many people by their own motivations have smiled at others, and spoken kind words and greetings to them.

Sometimes they were people they did not know and would not likely see again.

This kindness could have happened to someone who might have been suffering very personal and serious pain. Perhaps that was the worst period of time in that person's life and they were wondering how it would feel to be without the pain.

Perhaps the kindness shown this person at that time on that day gave them enough of a warm feeling that they began to remember, just slightly, how wonderful life can be when we're not in the depths of pain.

So it makes me wonder what would have happened if the one in pain that day passes no one who gave kind words, smiles and greetings. No one who expressed to him a sense of caring. It is the caring that makes a diference to live in a world of hopelessness, dark feelings of depression or one of dreams of the future of courage and hope of life and love.

We all know these things. At least I think we do. So how could we leave them so far away from dreams of the future of courage and hope? One could ask what it is that moves us from the natural feelings of hope to one of despair. I am sure there's more than one thing but what comes to my mind is the destructive power of alcohol and drugs.

Now it is true, of course, all people who drink are not problems to society but it is also true that people who develop problems with substance abuse cost all society enormous amounts of money and manpower plus untold mega-tons of creative power and visions. In my mind, the biggest loss, the loss most difficult to recover, is the loss of the visions and dreams.

These are the energies, the forces, that drive us to creative power. The creativeness helps develop industry, commerce, medicine and other ways to resolve the many issues of the human condition.

Therefore, it behooves us to consider that those who profit from such destruction, the drug dealers and the boot leggers whose combined insidious ways have led many a good person into their corrupted, tainted image - many of the profiteers deal their deaths thinking they are just giving a service to people in need and have very short-lived responsibility for their actions.

Not so, I think. If a person sold to one of those in need of crack cocaine, and they died from its use, or sold another bootleg booze and they died from its use, would they not have some responsibility for guidance that some person's children would not receive or the children they would have had or the lives they would have influenced in a positive fashion.

If God is real, and he is, then sin must also be real for He tells us so; then perhaps the greatest of all sins could be the sins committed against the children directly or indirectly. Guilt by omission or commission is still guilt. If the little pieces of wood, leather, beads and thread make up something we like to called a dream catcher, then I think we could consider something that makes sense to me. We are the Dream Catchers.

Both you and I have a great responsibility to create by our own actions. We interpret the dreams by the feeling in our bones and if we are under the influence of drugs (alcohol being a drug) how could we interpret a dream or for that matter even have a dream much less a vision?

I found in Webster's dictionaries the word "consequence." It says, "the natural result from a preceding condition or action," the effect.

Perhaps, the consequence of dealing in alcohol/drugs is not just to answer for an illegal act in violating society's laws, but a broader deeper even more serious consequence of violating the Laws of God.

It is my hope, my wish and my prayer that the unfortunate souls who are pushing drugs and dealing illegal booze look within themselves and find a new understanding of the depth of their actions.

**BY JAY WHITECROW**

# Let's Strengthen Together the Recognition of Aboriginal Rights in Canada!

**The Cree Nation continues to grow. What was decided in the past must be reviewed when we believe the time has come. After hearing the comments of the people in their community hearings concerning problems with the implementation of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement and with the Cree/Naskapi Act, the Cree/Naskapi Commission has written a document for the future, entitled: "Proposal for an Aboriginal Treaty Implementation Act."**

**This document elaborates some of the recommendations that they made in this year's report on the activities on the Commission. It also responds to the request of the Senate Standing Committee on Aboriginal Rights. As explained by the Commission to the Grand Council of the Crees/Board of Directors of the Cree Regional Authority, the document will contain, among other things, the following recommendations:**

**-A Federal Court of Aboriginal and Treaty Rights**

**-A Federal Treaty Implementation Act**

**-A Canadian Aboriginal Treaty Implementation Secretariat independent of the Dept. of Indian Affairs to deal with developments in treaty and implementation policy**

**I support the discussion and consideration of this initiative and the changes it will bring. This is a time for change in the relationship between aboriginal peoples and the Federal Government and the Provincial Governments of Canada.**

**Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come**

GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREES
(EEYOU ASTCHEE)

CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY

# Bears on a roll

**BY DOLORES AUDET-WASHIPABANO**

With a spectacular season of 19 wins, 1 loss so far, the Cree Nation Bears (Bantam CC) tested themselves entering the national Rouyn tournament last weekend in the BB category. I watched their third game and was... quite surprised about what I saw. No! They did not win the tournament, but they've learned from it... The experience will prepare them for the upcoming play-offs. At the game I saw they tried hard until the end of the game, never gave up, losing at one point 4-0, then made a comeback to 4-4(!)... and lost toward the end 6-4. I assure you: These boys are strong technically, thanks to Steve Cheechoo, their head coach.

Competition in double letters (CC, BB, AA) is somewhat different, and the BB category is the highest level of hockey in Abitibi-Temiscamingue (because of the size of population). Scouts scan arenas searching for future prospects; Bantam players are often targets. All coaches know about it; their players are their proteges, their pride. They have to be at their best. Pressure can get... crazy!

It gets "hot" in the stands; too many parents see their kid as future millionaires. And bang!!! The referee gives a minor penalty to their son!!! Wouah!!! A riot!!! Actually, I was also in Rouyn for a board meeting of Hockey Abitibi-Temiscamingue (HAT) and one of the items to be discussed was increasing violence in stands of arenas! Parents are viciously blind from their own ambitions! Joelle Lacelle, the regional person responsible for referees, asked for help and support from HAT by promoting a stop to violence in arena stands by some of these parents who go "bazurk" over hockey!

Anyway I guess what I wanted to say here is that our boys, the Cree Nation Bears, are doing fine representing us at a competitive level of hockey... They're doing a terrific job... They're so close to a ticket to the Chrysler Cup (Provincial Championship). However, they need more support behind the bench... They need our support to keep going... They need fans... They need encouragement... Please write to them... through The Nation.

...

**Shawn Iserhoff** from Mistissini made the regional Pee Wee team representing the Abitibi region, the Val d'Or Foreurs, at the International Pee Wee Tournament next February in Quebec City. Good luck Shawn!!! Have fun!!!

**Upcoming Tournament:** International Midget Tournament in Amos, Quebec. January 28-31. In the Midget "AAA Category: Forestiers D'Amos, Kharkiv (Ukraine), Jonquiere, New Brunswick, Albany (New York).

**I have a question** for anybody out there: Can someone tell me, where are the Midget hockey players??? I've been in two hockey tournaments recently and the Midget hockey category is made of a mix of Midget and Bantam!! I'm talking about big communities like Mistissini, Waskaganish and Chisasibi???

**Girls hockey players tested...** Five Cree girls were tested at the Chibougamau Arena for the upcoming training camp to select players for two girls' hockey teams to represent the region at the Chrysler Cup. 1st team: 16 and under, 2nd team: 21 and under. Results: Tiffany Neeposh (team 21) 1st out of 38, Amanda Wapachee (team 16) 3rd out of 48, Helen Gunner (team 16) 8th, Jewell Matoush (team 16) 29th, Bianca Sharl Roy (team 16) 32nd.

**Hockey for now!**

Conseil Cri de la santé et des services sociaux de la Baie James
ᓂᑐᐧᐃᔨᐣ ᑲᔅ ᐃᒋᐦᐃᐧ ᐊᑎᐃᐣ ᐊᓇᓇᑲᒋᑦᑲᓂᐧᐃᐣ
Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

## HEALTH PROMOTION OFFICERS

The Public Health Module, associated with the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay, is looking for **two health promotion officers.**

**Duties:**

to plan and carry out regional activities and support local activities in areas such as

- AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases prevention
- reduction of non-traditional use of tobacco
- physical activity promotion

**Qualifications:**

- pertinent post-secondary education (e.g., nursing, education, social work, communications, etc.)
- experience and skills in areas related to health promotion (health education, media, community development)
- bilingual: two of English, French and Cree
- availability to travel to the Cree communities

The jobs are contractual (one year with possibility of extension), but permanent funding is being sought. The persons could be based in either Montreal or Chisasibi.

**For more information contact:**

**Elizabeth Robinson**
**Public Health Module**
**277 Duke St., suite 201**
**Montreal, QC, H3C 2M2**
**tel. 514-861-2352 ext. 29**
**or**
**Robert Harris**
**Cree Board of Health and Social Services**
**Chisasibi, QC, J0M 1E0**
**tel. 819-855-2844**

**Deadline for applications: Feb. 15, 1999.**

# In the spirit of giving

**BY XAVIER KATAQUAPIT**

Kevin Hall, at 25 years of age, with a young wife and a 16-month-old daughter, should have the world by the tail. The sad fact is that this vibrant and fearless young Native man is in the fight of his life with cancer.

In June of 1998 Kevin and his family were told he was not responding to radiation and chemotherapy treatments and that he would have six months to a year to live. He and his family decided to look at alternative medicine which had led to some success, but the cancer returned recently and right now, Kevin, his family and friends are praying for a miracle.

He is hoping that a new alternative treatment through the Canadian Cancer Research Group will help him. This treatment is expensive with a cost of about $18,000 and although it is still experimental it may offer Kevin a chance as he bravely readies himself for another round with this devastating disease.

Kevin's parents, Theresa and Elwood Hall, and his sister Lynne are doing what they can to support him through this difficult time. Kevin's fight has been a long one since he was diagnosed in December 1996 with Hodgkin's Disease, a cancer of the lymph nodes. His strong belief system, spirituality and Native traditional treatment has helped him.

Kevin has accomplished much for his young age. He graduated from a four-year Honours BA in Native Studies at Laurentian University in April 1998. He was hired recently as a counselor for youth shelter in Ottawa, which among other things, assists homeless teens.

In addition to playing hockey in University, Kevin has also played for the Timmins Golden Bears Junior A Team. He know what it is to be part of a team. Perhaps, all f us in some way, through a financial donations and prayers, can offer our support as part of his team. Maybe you are a young parents just starting off in life like Kevin, maybe you are middle aged and as a parent you are watching your own children grow, perhaps you are a grandfather or a grandmother who understands the plight of our brave Kevin, maybe you are a coach of a hockey team or a player on a hockey team, maybe you are a young native professional or someone still in college or university, perhaps you are a teacher or a care giver- no matter who you are, if you are reading this plea in Kevin's name, please reach out and give him a hand.

You can bring your donation to any Bank of Nova Scotia and make a deposit to the trust fund For Kevin Hall, Bank Of Nova Scotia, Cochrane Ontario Branch. Make sure to include your name and address with the deposit as Kevin and his family would like to get back to you with thanks and a receipt for a tax write off will be sent to you. Make your money order or cheque payable to the Trust Fund for Kevin Hall and send it to the bank of Nova Scotia, Box 250, 127 Sixth Avenue, Cochrane, Ontario, P0L 1C0. Make sure to include your name and address.

To date the first nation communities of Moosonee and Attawapiskat are developing fundraising events to help Kevin and as well events are planned for Cochrane and Timmins. Some Native communities are designating a regular bingo game for Kevin and directing the proceeds of the game to his trust fund. If your community or group decides to do this please send the proceed by money order to the Bank of Nova Scotia in Cochrane payable to the trust fund for Kevin Hall.

In the spirit of giving I thank you for any help you can give Kevin.

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# CLASSIFIEDS

## 101-BIRTHDAYS

**Happy birthday** he to a great, no, no, no; a fabulous, no, no, the best friend anyone could ever possibly ask for, Pamela Fawn MacLeod on January 5 1999. Now that you were finally getting up to Hill, how have things been holding up for you lately? (No pun intended) hope you have a great birthday with lots of presents and cake with ice cream. Your friends, RPB, ES, TM, PP, JMP, MLP, LS, CP.

**Birthday greeting goes** out to my uncle Howard Hester who will be celebrating his birthday on January 13th. Once again, happy birthday Howie! And many more to come. Take care! With love from your niece Amanda in Waskaganish

**A special birthday greeting** to a very special grandmother Ruby Wischee who will be celebrating her day on January 24th 1999. May it comewrapped in joy and filled with laughter and love. Love always, Andrea, Martina and Jennica Moar. Waskaganish.

**Happy birthday** to my mom Ruby Wischee on January 24th. Words cannot express how much you mean to me. You've always been therefore made and I'll always be thankful for that! I love you mom! May God bless and keep you. With love, Shirley.

**Cynthia Wischee** will be celebrating her day on January 20, 1999. Happy birthday and many more to come! From Andrea, Martina and Jennica Moar.

**Would like to wish a happy in** 19 birthday to Nicole Tanoush to. I hope you enjoy your special day . From your sister Diane Amy Tanoush.xoxoxooxoxooxox. P.S. I love you so much happy birthday to my brother Johnny. He is 15 years old. From mom and dad and sister Diane.

**This special birthday** wish goes out to my one and only girlfriend Nicole Tanoush on January 18th 1999. You are the most wonderful, caring, loving and understanding person I ever knew.ILUSM. With love, always Joshua Rabbitskin.

**We would like to wish** a happy birthday to our hardest slap shot, Wildcat Uncle Larry on January 27 1999. Don't party to much on your birthday okay!! From; Clayton, Randy, Betty and Justin, too.

**A happy birthday** to Bob Moar who will be celebrating his day on Jan. 22 1999. You will always have a place in our hearts because God gave you to us as our grandfather. Love always, Andrea, Martina and Jennica Moar.

**Oliver Wischee** from Moosonee, Ontario will be celebrating his?? Birthday on January 18th. I don't quite know how old you'll be but you're still young at heart. Love your niece, Shirley.

**I would like to wish** Dorothy Wynne A. happy birthday on January 22nd. I wish I could be there when you blowout you're ?? Candles. Enjoy your day, you deserve it! With love, Shirley.

**Happy birthday** to our beautiful daughter Carole Joanna

# JOB OPPORTUNITY

Cree Nation of Chisasibi is looking for a **Director General of Operations** *who will plan, organize, direct and monitor all programs, services and projects offered by the organization.* This individual will implement policy and decisions to achieve Council objectives in the areas designated. He/she will make recommendations on matters of administrative procedures, policies, possible programs and projects that could be undertaken by the Band and prepare/present status reports as required. The Director General of Operations is also *responsible for negotiations, implementation and follow-up of third party dealings with the Chief and Council.*

**The ideal candidate** *has a university degree/college diploma in business administration, 5 years of managerial experience in the public/private sector and the ability to speak and write English. Experience in government policy development and knowledge of the Cree and French languages are a definite asset. Must be able to work under pressure with minimum supervision, work irregular hours and must have good knowledge and understanding of the Cree/Naskapi (of Que) Act, the JBNQA, La Grande, Chisasibi and Opimiscow Agreements.*

This is a *regular full-time position* at 35 hours/week with a starting salary of *$46,000 annually* depending on qualifications and experience. a complete range of fringe benefits are offered and lodging will be supplied at a nominal rent.

**Please send resume to:**
**Mr. Charlie Pepabino,**
**Personnel Agent**
**Cree Nation of Chisasibi**
**C.P. 150**
**Chisasibi, Que.**
**J0M 1E0**

**Posting period is from January 11, 1999 to January 29, 1999.**
**For more information call the office at (819) 855-2878, ext. 361.**

# CLASSIFIEDS

Stephen on January 19 1999 on her third birthday. Love always mom and dad.

**Happy 15th birthday** to Thomas Stevens to on January 12 1999. Score more goals in this new year. Love always, mom and dad.

**Happy birthday to Jamie Stevens** who celebrated her birthday in the North Bay on Jan. 9 1999. Keep up the good work! Love, mom and dad.

**Happy 22nd birthday** to Jamie Stevens. We miss you! Love always your nieces Courtney, Caitlin, carole, Loveena Stephen..

**Happy birthday special greetings** going out to Margaret Cheezo in Nemaska. From Evelyn and your little friends in Pre–K..

**Happy birthday to Scott Stevens** on January 21 1999. Work hard for the money and two for the show! Winter road. From someone on Pontax Street. Waskaganish.

**Scott Stevens** will be celebrating his birthday on January 21 1999 and many more to come! Love always mom and dad.

**A birthday wish to someone special** on January 12 1999. My sister Paula Matt. My goodness sis, how time (years) fly fast we are already in our hum, hum early 30s. Remember when we were just kids we cut a big brown frog and we decided to put it in the other than just to see what would happen to it. Boy! Did it ever get fat and after oops! By a better not going to detail about the aftermath. Mom might be reading this. Anyway Paula I want to wish you a happy birthday on this special day that God has given you. God bless. Love always Sandra.

**A happy belated 18th birthday** to my dear little sister Florence Petawabano on December 23 1998. I can remember the day you came into this world to days before Christmas, I can save from my heart of all the Christmas gifts we had you were the best gift from God to us. My sweet sister don't ever forget how much I love and care for you. God bless. Love always Sandra.

**A happy belated birthday wish** to my sister Tammy P. Coon on Nov. 26 1998. Tammy I have this little thing on my desk that I really like to read and I want to share it with you. Prayer. God, I thank you that you care about me even when I don't care enough about myself. Instruct me in finding the balance between my needs and the needs of those around me. I love them also much my family, friends, church, the needy in my community. Lord, teach me also to love myself in a way that best equips me to serve you as you would want me to serve. Amen. Hope you have a nice happy birthday my sister. God bless. Love always Sandra

**I want to wish my husband** Johnny a Merry Christmas. I hope jolly old Santa is good to you this Christmas. He knows if you're naughty or nice but anyway may be he'll remember that you need equipment to play hockey. No offense, but, just keep


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practicing, may be someday, in the near future, a scout from the Buffalo Sabres will be in the stands, admiring you're outstanding talent on the ice.

**Merry Christmas and happy new year** to a dear friend of mind, Doris Pachano and to all her family. Though it may be a difficult time for you all, may use still have a good Christmas. May God be with you all. Remember, God has called him home, to dine with him at his table on this Christmas day. Gloria.

**Belated birthday greetings** going out to Darius Reginald Wapachee on January 11. Happy 10th birthday son. We know you can't wait for your birthday party, please be patient. Also, keep up the good work in school. All our love, your parents, Reggie, Sophia and Terrance.

**We would like to wish** our niece Kisha Saganash-Polson a happy birthday on January 22nd. We're very happy to have you with us. Love aunty Georgette and Uncle Lindy.

**Wishing a happy birthday** to a wonderful, caring, loving husband and father Larry Tomatuk on January 27 1999 hope you enjoy your birthday. With love, Dolores and Kerrianne.

**Wishing a happy birthday** to a very special person on her birthday, Cheryl Swallow on Feb. 6 1999. Hope you know I've always felt a sister just like you use one of the greatest joy that life can bring and I wish we weren't apart. I reminisce about the days we've shared. The memories that keep us close in heart. Wishing you happiness on your birthday and always. With love, from your sister in Eastmain.

**Birthday wishes** to a really good friend of mine Sophia Cheezo on Feb. 19. I wish to many more fun birthdays to come. You're my forever friend because of the beauty

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inside you. No one will ever understand me but you. And stand by me quite the same way you do. I'm glad to have a friend like you. You're a special friend to me. From Betty Tomatuk. (Eastmain)

**A special little girl** will be celebrating her second birthday on Feb. 15. This goes out to our special granddaughter Faith Gertina Moses. Our home is filled with the cutest new things our dear little granddaughter needs. Our dreams are filled with the sweet things as she's saying and the adorable clothes she's wearing. We love to hear when she says Banney (Barney), Elmo, BJ, Baba Bot (Baby Bop) and most of all stone cold. Happy birthday to you faith. From; Kookoom and Grandpa. (Eastmain)

**This special birthday greeting** going out to my special cousin Shawn Tomatuk on Feb. 5. May your day be special as you are. Happy birthday Shawn and many happy birthdays to come. From your cousin Betty Tomatuk. (Eastmain)

**Happy second birthday** to our niece Faith Gerrtina Moses on Feb. 15. You made a big difference in our lives. Your life is full of love. You are so special. So sweet to be with. We love you so much. You're growing too fast. From; Randy, Betty (Badjigsh) and Justin (Munroe) Tomatuk. P.S. save us a piece of your cake.

**On Feb. 2, a birthday wish** goes out to Georgette M. S. from Eastmain. Hoping he'll have in nice birthday at an also keep counting the weeks. We are proud you. From Liane and Redfern. xoxoxo

**Happy belated birthday** wishes goes out to our little cousin Kisha Polson Saganash from Val d'Or. She's celebrated her third birthday in Eastmain on January 22nd. From the boboys, Corey, cayce. xoxoxoxo.

**To Howard and Georgette.** We would like to issue a happy birthday on Feb. 2 and also thanks for keeping us. Love you. The Boboys. xoxoxoxo

**Happy 18th belated birthday** to Robin Richmond on January 15 who is attending college in South Porcupine. From Liane, Redfern, Maxine and Boboys. xoxoxoxo.

**Happy 18th belated birthday** to Kevin Brousseau on January 26. Who is attending John Abbott college in Montreal. From Liane, Redfern and Boboys.

## 300-PERSONAL'S

**I would like to say hello** to these two special friends Lillian Diamond and Mabel Herodier. Wishing you both a happy new year. Hope to see you soon. From your friend Kathy Gilpin. (Eastmain)

**Hey Terry Kitchen** from Waswanipi! Better watch out this Valentine's day! Cuz, I've got my arrow pointed straight at you! Happy Valentine's Day. From Guess whom! You'll never guess....

# Journey Through the Heart of Eeyou/Eenou Estchee

## "Bringing Our People Home"

**The Journey Through the Heart of Eeyou/Eenou Estchee will begin on the 1st of February with the Youth of the Cree Nation, along with James Alfred Gunner, who will act as a group leader. James Alfred Gunner and Cree Youth are going to travel through the nine Cree communities and will pass by the town of Chibougamau. The objectives of the Winter Expedition are as follows :**

- **Fund-raising for a Hemo-Dialysis machine at a price of $22,500.00. Two of these such machines are needed at the platform where they will be used.**
- **We are aiming at achieving $45,000.00 through the contributions of many.**
- **Individual healing for alcohol and drug abuse and other social problems.**
- **Continuing the Cultural teachings for the Cree Youth participants.**
- **Maintaining our communciations with Cree Youth and Elders.**

**The Cree Youth and group leaders will begin the journey from Whapmagoostui and travel to these communities : Chisasibi, Wemindji, Eastmain, Waskaganish, Nemaska, Waswanipi, Ouje-Bougoumou, passing by Chibougamau and the long walk to Mistissini Lake.**

**For more information or to make contributions, please contact :**
**Ashley Iserhoff**
**Youth Grand Chief**
**Glen Cooper**
**Special Projects Coordinator**
**John S. Matoush**
**Executive Assistant**
**Cree Nation Youth Council**
**Tel : 819-673-2600**
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To enter: Send in your most romantic poem, story, or picture. The Nation staff will judge the entries and select the winner, based on how much each entry makes the girls cry. The entry that evokes the most tears will be selected as the winner.

Contest Rules: All entries must be at The Nation's office no later than Monday, Februay 1st at noon. All entries must have the name, age, phone and address attached, so that we can contact the winner. The contest is open to everyone, but at least one of the persons travelling to Montreal must be at least 18 years of age. Legal ID must be presented before leaving your community.

To enter, mail, fax or email your entries to the following:

**Valentine's Day Contest**
**C/O The Nation**
**5505 Blvd. St. Laurent Suite 3018**
**Montreal QC H2T 1S6**
**Fax: 514-278-9914**
**beesum@beesum-communications.com**

**Good Luck!**